In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29, with the following:

--Figure 1 shows a comparison of Pellino 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) and Pellino 2 (SEQ ID NO:4) amino acids sequences. The two sequences exhibit approximately 81% amino acid identity (amino acid sequence identity = SEQ ID NOS:13-42).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 54, line 12, with the following:

--Four nano-grams of Clontech Human Universal Quick-Clone cDNA (product # 7109-1) was mixed in a total volume of 50 μL with these ingredients: 200 μM dNTP, oligonucleotides PELD1 and PELD2 (PELD1 = ATGTTTTCCCCTGGCCAGGAGGAACAC (SEQ ID NO:5), PELD2 = TCAGTCAATTGGACCTTGGAAAATTAA (SEQ ID NO:6); 0.5 μM each), 20 mM Tris-HCl pH 8.85, 6 mM $(NH_4)_2SO_4$, 10 mM KCl, 2 mM $MgSO_4$, 0.1% Triton-X-100, 10 μg/mL nuclease-free bovine serum albumin, and 3 units of pfu-turbo DNA polymerase (Stratagene, La Jolla, CA). The reaction was then overlaid with mineral oil (30 μL) and amplified using a PCR thermal cycler (MJ Research, Watertown, MA) for 40 cycles where each cycle consists of 3 steps: 95°C for 20 sec, 59°C for 30 sec, and 72°C for 1.5 min. Subsequently, the mixture was purified using High-Pure PCR purification columns (Roche, Indianapolis, IN) following manufacturer's recommendation. Upon analyses using 2% agarose gel electrophoresis, a product of approximately 1.3 kb in length was detected, representing the full-length open reading frame of Pellino-2.--